

What's New in the MPDC

NOVEMBER 19, 2001

BUCKLE UP DC! – OPERATION ABC MOBILIZATION SCHEDULED FOR THANKSGIVING WEEK

The MPDC will be joining more than 10,600 law enforcement agencies across the country in stepping up enforcement of child passenger safety, seat belt and drunk driving laws over the Thanksgiving holiday week. Operation ABC Mobilization (America Buckles-up Children) begins Monday morning with a kick-off national news conference at the National Transportation Safety Board, followed by a seat belt/child safety seat check-point conducted by the MPDC. The MPDC plans a total of seven check-points throughout the week, covering all police districts, as part of a special effort to get more adults to buckle up themselves and to secure children in appropriate safety seats. This year, nearly 8,000 Americans – adults and children – will die for one reason alone:

This Mobilization will be focusing on drunken driving as well. Learn the facts about drinking and driving in DC by going to:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/duihome.shtm

When it comes to seat belt and child safety seat enforcement, DC has tough “primary enforcement” laws. That means police can stop drivers in DC solely for not having themselves or their passengers properly secured. Violations carry fines of \$50-\$55 and two points on the driver’s license. Detailed information on child passenger safety in DC can be found at:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/childseat.shtm

because they failed to buckle up. And according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), drunk driving deaths increased by nearly 4 percent (677 people) nationwide last year. For more information about the Thanksgiving week Mobilization, click on:

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

PROJECT HARVEST TENDS TO THE NEEDY IN DC

Project Harvest is an annual food drive designed to feed as many people in need as possible in DC during the Thanksgiving holiday. Last year, Project Harvest provided food for approximately 4,800 families. This year’s drive runs through November 21. Non-perishable food items may be dropped off at Project Harvest donation boxes located at all MPDC buildings, all DC Fire stations, and the Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Clubhouse at 4103 Benning Road, NE. Cash donations can also be sent to Project Harvest Inc., P.O. Box 91947, Washington, DC, 20090-1947. For details on this year’s Project Harvest, call the MPDC’s Community Outreach Section at 727-0783 or click on:

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

GOT A QUESTION ABOUT A PHOTO RADAR TICKET?

Individuals with questions about speeding tickets they may have received through DC’s photo radar program can call either the Automated Traffic Enforcement Office (202-833-3511) or the MPDC’s Traffic Safety Coordinator (202-727-2201). Detailed information about the speeding reduction program, including the latest results through the month of October, is also available at:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speed.shtm

Since August 1999, the number of red-light running violations at intersections equipped with cameras has fallen nearly 57 percent – the equivalent of almost 21,500 fewer violations each month. Learn more about this program at:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/redlight.shtm

MAJOR NARCOTICS OPERATION RESULTS IN DISMANTLING VIOLENT DRUG ORGANIZATION

US Attorney Roscoe Howard, the MPDC and other law enforcement officials this week announced a successful joint operation targeting a violent drug trafficking organization centered in the Northwest community of Petworth. The operation was originally launched in February 2000 by the 4th District's Focused Mission Team, with the main targets being members of the notorious Mahdi family. The result was a 324-count indictment charging 16 suspects with a variety of federal and local charges, including narcotics conspiracy, first-degree murder, attempted murder, armed robbery, kidnapping and firearms offenses. Twelve of the 16 defendants were arrested in early-morning raids in DC and Maryland, where both arrest and search warrants were executed. MPDC officials announced that additional enforcement and prevention resources would be devoted to Petworth and surrounding communities, to help prevent other drug organizations from trying to fill the void left by the arrests of the "Mahdi group." Read the news release on the operation at:

Each police district has a Focused Mission Team that concentrates on narcotics and other crime problems in the community. The names and telephone numbers of the lieutenant in charge of each FMT can be found on the "District Roster" page for each police district. Get there by going to:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/districts.shtm

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

CRIME IN DC INCREASES IN OCTOBER; YEAR-TO-DATE FIGURES STILL SHOW A DECLINE

Driven by increases in homicides, burglaries and motor vehicle thefts, crime in DC rose by nearly 6 percent in October, compared with the same month last year, according to preliminary figures. Burglaries increased nearly 29 percent and stolen autos rose 43 percent for the month; homicides rose from 16 in October 2000 to 30 last month. Year-to-date, crime in DC is still down for the sixth year in a row. Through the first 10 months of the year, homicides have fallen 12 percent; sexual assaults, nearly 7 percent; thefts, approximately 5 percent; and burglaries and aggravated assaults, almost 3 percent each. Only robberies (7.7%) and motor vehicle thefts (10.4%) continue to show increases for the year. Crime this year is down in four of the seven districts, with increases in the other three. For the latest preliminary crime statistics for each district and the city as whole, click on:

In the days immediately following the September 11th terrorist attacks, the MPDC mobilized its Civil Disturbance Units, which had a temporary impact on neighborhood patrols and other community policing activities. Since late September, however, patrols have been returned to normal, with a few units within the Special Operations Division still assigned to critical posts in the District. And through the use of overtime "visibility patrols" approved by Mayor Williams, the MPDC has actually increased the number of officers patrolling during the evening shift in all seven districts.

mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/crstats.shtm

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with crimereports.com.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE
MPDC.DC.GOV